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Approved For Release 2005/07/13 : CIA-RDP78M02660R000800120014-3

March 21, 1976

Executive R

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OLC 76-0832

President Gerald R. Ford
The White House

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield
Capitol Hill

Speaker of the House Carl Albert
Capitol Hill

Gentlemen:

The furor over the intelligence committee report leaks does not address the basic issue. The basic issue is: approximately 95% of all classified material need not be and should not be classified. Secret government is exactly counter to the very premise upon which our country was founded.

The entire classification system should be completely overhauled. Classification to avoid embarrassment to officials or agencies is a misuse of the system. Classification to avoid exposure of misdeeds or illegal operations cannot be justified. "National security" is a blanket which covers a multitude of areas, many of which are neither "national" or "security".

If our elected and appointed officials in the highest offices in our land go down a side path and do not address the classification octopus it will be a lost opportunity that may never present itself again.

Two hundred years ago the sovereignty of the American people was established. To the extent that government by secrecy diminishes government of, by, and for the people, the American promise is commensurately diminished.

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Respectfully yours,

Homer L. Fletcher
Citizen

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Daniel Schorr

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Routing Slip

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Remarks:

Executive Secretary
3/26/76
Date